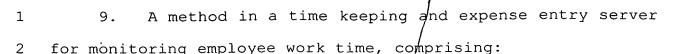
## Claims:

- 1 1. A method within a telecommunications switch for
- 2 tracking employee start and stop times presently, comprising:
- 3 playing a message to request an employee ID;
- 4 playing a message to request / the employee to select
- 5 between start and stop;
- 6 playing a message to request an account code;
- 7 generating a message compr/sing, signals that indicate
- 8 the employee ID, whether the employee is starting or stopping
- 9 a task, and an account code; and
- 10 transmitting the generated message to a time keeping and
- 11 expense entry tracking server
  - 1 2. The method  $\oint f$  claim 1 comprising the step of
  - 2 activating the IVR to/request the employee ID only after the
  - 3 switch determines that a specified number was dialed to
  - 4 initiate a time entry event.
  - 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the IVR generates
  - 2 messages to request one of the ID, the selection between
  - 3 start and stop, and the account code are transmitted to a
  - 4 user phone wherein the user phone comprises of either a land
  - 5 line phone of a wireless terminal.

- 4. A method within a time keeping and expense entry server for tracking employee work time, comprising:
  - generating a text message to a piser terminal to request
  - 4 a user ID, a selection between start and stop, and an account
  - 5 code;
  - 6 receiving a response from the user terminal; and
  - 7 storing the response in/a specified manner to support
  - 8 the subsequent generation  $\not \circ f$  reports that detail employee
  - 9 work activities and total account activities.
  - 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the text is transmitted to a wireless terminal in the form of a short
  - 3 message service message.
  - 1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the text is 2 transmitted to the user terminal in the form of a page.
  - 1 7. The method of claim 4 wherein the text is
  - 2 transmitted to the user terminal in the form of an email
  - 3 message/
  - 1 /8. The method of claim 4 wherein the text is generated
  - 2 as a part of a GUI screen display in a form that prompts the
  - 3 user to enter his or her responses in the corresponding
  - 4 fields.

6

9



3 receiving a message from a user/terminal;

extracting a user ID, an account code, and a selected indication of a start or stop status;

storing a time entry event/with respect to an account code according to user ID;

determining whether addit onal information is required; and

generating GUI screen display signals to request the additional information accordingly.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the type of GUI
2 screen display that is generated as a result of the GUI
3 screen display signals depends on terminal type.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the TKET server 2 generates the GUI screen display signals to create specified 3 GUI screen displays according to terminal type.

- 1 A server for time keeping and expense entry server 2 for tracking employee work time, comprising:
- 3 a processor;
- 4 a memory for storing computer instructions, which
- 5 computer instructions define the operation logic of the
- 6 server;
- 7 at least one network port to enable the server to
- 8 communicate with external systems over the internet; and
- 9 an internal bus coupled to the at one network port, to
- 10 the processor and to the memory wherein the processor
- 11 receives and executes the  $\not\leftarrow\phi$ mputer instructions, wherein the
- 12 computer instructions define operational logic to prompt the
- 13 server to:
- receive and interpret responses from the user terminal;
- store the responses in a specified manner; and
- subsequently generate reports that detail employee work
- 17 activities and total account activities.
  - 1 13. The server of claim 12 further including computer
- 2 instructions that define logic for receiving a message from a
- 3 user terminal and for extracting a user  $\Sigma$ D, an account code,
- 4 and a selected indication of a start or stop status.
- 1 14. The server of claim 13 further including computer
- 2 instructions that define logic for storing a time entry event
- 3 with respect to an account code according to user ID;
- 4 determining whether additional information is required.

The server of claim 13 further including computer instructions that define logic for generating GUI screen display signals to request the additional information accordingly.